

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H. 3726, with Subcommittee Amendment**

(Doc. No. 20850SD06)

TO: The Honorable Chauncey Gregory, Chairman, Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee
FROM: Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board
ANALYSTS: R.J. Stein
DATE: February 13, 2006 SBD: 2006096

AUTHOR: Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee PRIMARY CODE CITE: 50-26-10
SUBJECT: Chandler's Law--All Terrain Vehicles Operation

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 3726, with subcommittee amendment dated February 9, amends Title 50 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Chapter 26 relating to the operation of all terrain vehicles (ATVs). The Bill defines "all terrain vehicle" and prohibits a person under the age of 17 from operating an All Terrain Vehicle unless that person has completed a safety education course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and has been issued a safety certificate; or unless the minor driver is accompanied by another person at least 17 years of age. The Bill also requires young ATV operators to wear a safety helmet and eye protection and specifies additional safe operating procedures. The Bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to issue certificates to individuals upon their completion of a certified safe driving course. The Bill exempts ATVs from ad valorem personal property taxes beginning with calendar year 2007.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

The Department of Natural Resources reports that the annual cost of developing and implementing a safe driving course, issuing certificates and certifying other safety instructors throughout the state is approximately \$95,849. Costs include one educator to design the safety course, instructional manual and other instructional materials; provide training; and develop safety course guidelines for individuals wanting to become certified by DNR as an ATV instructor. The salary and fringe benefits for the educator is estimated at \$54,720. The cost to produce the certificates, instructional manuals, certification guidelines and other operating expenses are estimated at \$41,129. Existing staff and resources can be used to certify instructors and conduct compliance inspections.

SPECIAL NOTES:

The Bill does not provide for the Department to collect and retain fees for providing education or for issuing certificates or certifying instructors. Therefore, it is assumed the impact would be on the General Fund of the State.

The Bill exempts ATVs from personal property taxes. The Board of Economic Advisors is the appropriate entity to address any revenue impact associated with this Bill.

Approved by:



Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget